

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

6514 E 750 N Ossian, IN 46777

A congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



Third Sunday in Lent

Divine Service - Setting Three

March 23, 2025

Vol. 127-17

Invocation (Please stand)

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word pg. 184

Introit (sung responsively with the choir)



My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

**Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*
for I am lonely and af- | flicted.**

To you, | O LORD,*
I lift | up my soul.

**O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame;*
let not my enemies exult | over me.**

The troubles of my heart | are enlarged;*
bring me out of my dis- | tresses.

**Consider my affliction and my | trouble,*
and forgive | all my sins.**

Oh, guard my soul, and de- | liver me!*

Let me not be put to shame, for I take ref- | uge in you.

*Glory be to the Father and / to the Son**

and to the Holy / Spirit;

*as it was in the be- / ginning,**

is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*

for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,*

for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

Kyrie



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 8:16–24

¹⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt.’” ¹⁷And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt. ¹⁸The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. ¹⁹Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said. ²⁰Then the LORD said to Moses, “Rise up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh, as he goes out to the water, and say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD, “Let my people go, that they may serve me. ²¹Or else, if you will not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants and your people, and into your houses. And the houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. ²²But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth. ²³Thus I will put a division between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall happen.’”” ²⁴And the LORD did so. There came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and into his servants’ houses. Throughout all the land of Egypt the land was ruined by the swarms of flies.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Chorale Response “What Wondrous Love is This”

Epistle

Ephesians 5:1–9

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ³But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not associate with them; ⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Tract

To you I lift | up my eyes,*
O you who are enthroned in the | heavens!
Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their | master,*
so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy up- | on us.
Have mercy upon us, | O LORD,*
have mercy up- | on us.

Holy Gospel

Luke 11:14–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eleventh chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁴Now [Jesus] was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. ¹⁵But some of them said, “He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons,” ¹⁶while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, **“Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²²but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. ²⁴“When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ ²⁵And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. ²⁶Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.” ²⁷As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!” ²⁸But he said, **“Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”****

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,

being of one substance with the Father,
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

#659 Lord of Our Life

Sermon

Offertory

The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are:

C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -

tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Offering

Prayer of the Church

We remember all those in need of continued strength and healing

*Coty Newnum, Peter Meyer, Ruth Bienz
 Donna Schumm, Hildegard Bauermeister, Gail Werling
 Judy Morris (friend of Mike and Linda Bultemeier)
 Carla Wiederhold (cousin of Otto Clausen battling cancer)
 Bryce Bowman, Ron Whitesel
 Ellie Anderson (friend of Sarena Wirgau)
 Brandon Tomlinson (son in-law of the Brinkleys)
 Sandra Flum (Susan Grafi's sister)*

We pray for our expectant mothers: *Amelia Phillips, Reese Springer, Allie Nabrvoold, Wendy Boehm
 Destiny Laley, Shaeli Streeks, Abigail (Springer) Mayer, Molly Kleppinger, Betsy Dodgers*

We pray for our members shut-in:

*Ruth Witte (Ossian Healthcare)
 Marilyn Meyer (Kingston)
 Marilyn Franke (Christian Care)
 Charlotte Bultemeier (StoryPoint West)
 Rev. Donald Lutz (Lutheran Life Village)
 Norwin and Martha Bauermeister (Astral in Auburn)*

We pray for our Church, School and all her workers

We pray for all military personnel

Service of the Sacrament pg. 194

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bles - ed is He, bles - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;

**and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



A - men.

Agnus Dei



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

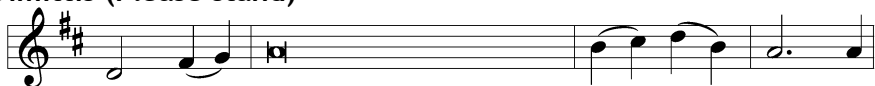
Distribution

Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper in our worship. Bethlehem Lutheran Church administers this Holy Supper in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive, along with the Bread and Wine, the very Body and Blood of Jesus through which we receive the forgiveness of sins. Furthermore, the communicants as a body of believers make a confession of the unity of their faith. **Those desiring to receive the Sacrament with us, who are not communicant members of Bethlehem or of a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, are asked to please speak with the Pastor before the service.**

Distribution Hymns

- #624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born
- #625 Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread
- #541 "Away from Us!" the Demon Cried
- #716 I Walk in Danger All the Way
- #420 Christ, the Life of All the Living

Nunc Dimittis (Please stand)



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

B and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.
 O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

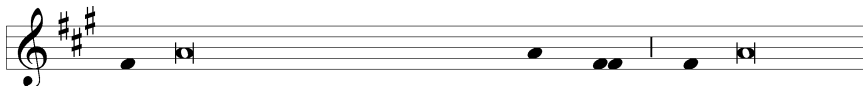


A Bless we the Lord.

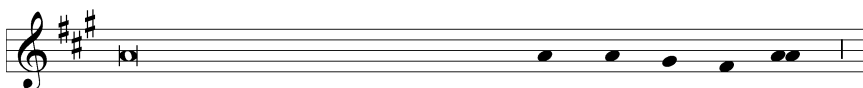


G Thanks be to God.

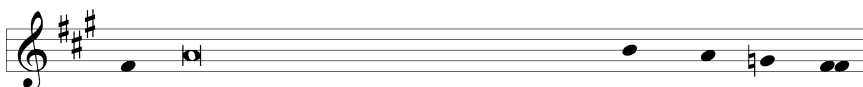
Benediction



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



G A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn

#594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

WE WELCOME ALL VISITORS this morning to our church and worship service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please take a moment to sign one of the register books located in each of the church foyers. If you would like to be contacted by the pastor or an elder, then please take a moment to fill out one of the green cards on the narthex tables and give it to an elder or drop it in the offering collection plate. Please be sure to introduce yourself to the Pastor and to others in attendance and feel free to worship with us again. Thank you!

IN HIS SERVICE

Preaching / Celebrant	Rev. Samuel Wirgau
Vicar	Sem. Morgan Phillips
Fieldworker	Sem. Brandon Streeks
Deaconess	Wendy Boehm
Head Elder	Glen Werling
Elders on Duty	Ted Schumm and Jerry Meyer
Kantor	Richard Brinkley
Choir	Adult Choir
Acolytes	Jonah Bultemeier and Lucas Werling
Altar Guild Chairman	Cheryl Louison and Deann Oliver
Ushers	Josh Boehm, Ed Black, Aspen Fisher, Brandon Schumm Don Schueler, Graham Stoppenhagen, Coty Newnum, Jason Rekeweg

<i>Pastor: Rev. Samuel Wirgau</i>	<i>260-273-7595</i>
<i>(Samuel.wirgau@gmail.com)</i>	
<i>Bethlehem Lutheran Church Office</i>	<i>260-597-7121</i>
<i>Bethlehem Lutheran School</i>	<i>260-597-7366</i>
<i>Assoc. Pastor, Headmaster Rev. Anthony Dodgers</i>	<i>616-648-6489</i>
<i>Kantor Mr. Richard Brinkley</i>	<i>260-705-4105</i>
<i>Deaconess Wendy Boehm</i>	<i>260-415-8526</i>
<i>Vicar Morgan Phillips</i>	<i>605-391-4770</i>
<i>Website for Church and School: www.blcsossian.org</i>	

TODAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service with Holy Communion
	NO	Adult Bible Class and Sunday School
	11:30 a.m.	Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
MONDAY	NO SCHOOL – (Spring Break March 24-28)	
	NO	Handbell Choir Practice
WEDNESDAY	5:15 p.m.	Women’s Bible Study (Youth Room)
	5:00- 5:30 p.m.	Private Confession and Absolution
	NO	Adult Catechesis Class
	6:00 p.m.	Lenten Supper
	7:00 p.m.	Evening Lenten Service
		Adult Choir Practice
SUNDAY	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service with Holy Communion
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Class and Sunday School
	11:30 a.m.	Special Church Council Meeting
	11:30 a.m.	Voice of Bethlehem (WZBD 92.7)
	2:00 p.m.	Friends of Wyneken Presentation (Fellowship Hall)

Announcements can be emailed to the church secretary at bethlehemossoniansec@gmail.com or the church office at 597-7121.
<https://www.youtube.com/bethlehemplutheranchurchossian> 9:00 a.m. Livestream

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR THE SEASON OF LENT - Everyone is welcome to join us for Evening Prayer with Holy Communion on Wednesday's beginning at 7:00 pm. Also, feel free to attend the morning Chapel Services at 10:00 am. The Bethlehem Youth and parents will be serving a Lenten Dinner beginning at 6:00pm and the meal for **Wednesday, March 26th will be Ham & Cheese Sliders, PB&J, coleslaw, and fruit.**

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION - for all the Wednesdays of Lent Pastor will be available for Individual Confession and Absolution (LSB page 292) from 5:00-5:30 in the sanctuary for those who would desire this as part of the Lenten devotions. If you have questions, reach out to him.

SPECIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – SUNDAY, March 30th after Bible Class.

PLEASE JOIN US SUNDAY, MARCH 30TH DURING ADULT BIBLE CLASS FOR A “MEET AND GREET” WITH SEMINARIAN BRANDON STREEKS.

Our next book club pick: “The Last Bookshop in London” by Madeline Martin. This book is available through Bethlehem's online book fair which is going on through March 17th. We will meet to discuss the book on Saturday, April 26th at 9:00am at crimson house. Happy reading!

BABY SHOWER – We would like to shower Vicar and Mrs. Morgan Phillips who are expecting their second child in March with an ingathering of Cards. Diapers, and Gift Cards. There is a table set up in the church foyer for items to be left. They are excited to be expecting a baby girl!

COMING SOON!!!! The Washington DC group will be having a scrap metal recycling dumpster again this spring. Prepare to purge and round up your scrap metal. Date and location will be coming in the weeks ahead. Contact Jason Rekeweg or Jay Werling for any questions.

NORTHERN WELLS FOOD PANTRY IN OSSIAN IS IN NEED OF DONATIONS-

Please leave your donations in the box located in the church foyer. Any donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you

LAWNCARE BIDS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN BY THE TRUSTEES. PLEASE SEE JAY WERLING FOR A BID SHEET. THANK YOU

FRIENDS OF WYNEKEN - On Palm Sunday, March 28, 1920, an estimated F4 tornado traveled from Ossian, Indiana to Edgerton on the Indiana-Ohio state line, killing 13 and causing millions of dollars of damage to houses and farmsteads in its path. Many of those affected by the tornado were German Lutherans. To mark the 105th anniversary of the twister, the Friends of Wyneken will retell the story of the twister and its aftermath with a presentation on **Sunday, March 30 at 2 pm**. The presentation will be held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 6514 E 750 N, Ossian, Indiana. All are welcome to attend.

FROM THE BLANKET COMMITTEE – We have made eleven blankets that were sent to the homeless in Fort Wayne, and 33 blankets were taken to the food and clothing co-op at CTFSW. Also, 21 children’s blankets were taken to Charis House for homeless mothers and children. We meet on Thursdays, and you are welcome to come sew with us!

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE at St. John Lutheran Church, Flatrock gym on Friday, April 11th from 8-5pm, and Saturday, April 12th from 8-noon, bag sale on Saturday.

Offering March 16, 2025

<u>Average weekly need \$13,818</u>	
Home Fund Env.	\$7,098.67
Synod	
Loose	306.57
Scholarship Fund	300.00
Sunday School	5.81
Improvement Fund	
Endowment Fund	300.00
Endowment Mem.	
Organ Fund	49.47
Music Fund	
School Tuition	<u>2,785.55</u>
Total	\$10,846.07

Financial Report

Home Fund Balance	\$321.29
Next week bills due:	\$14,000
Bills due two weeks:	\$18,500
Savings Account Balance	\$54,096.89
Borrowed from Savings:	\$0.00
Operating Loan Debt:	\$0.00

Church/Communion Attendance

Sunday	175/129
Wednesday	92/63

Here is the monthly report for the Bethlehem Lutheran School Endowment Fund by the Lutheran Foundation. The following information is accurate as of January 31, 2025:

\$221,427.82 - Amount Bethlehem sent in since 2009
 208,383.00 - Amount the Lutheran Foundation matched
 318,983.72 - Amount generated since 2009
-149,500.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2009
 \$599,294.54 - Value of the Endowment Fund as of January 31, 2025

Dr. David Nahrwold Fund
 \$ 75,078.93 - Amount sent in since November 2024
928.51 - Amount generated since November 2024
 \$ 76,007.44 - Value of Dr. David Nahrwold Fund as of January 31, 2025

RECITATION & PRAYER FOR SCHOOL AND HOME

The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

What are the Ten Commandments?

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it Holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What is the Apostles' Creed?

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

- *Additional Memory Work for the week may be recited.*
- *A hymn may be sung.*
- *Scripture Reading and Devotion Lesson*
- *Prayers and Intercessions*

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Learn-by-heart all or some of the provided text as age and ability of your household allows.

Lutheran Service Book #422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

**On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation!**